

July 8, 1999

Rick Breitenbach  
Calfed Bay Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Re: Calfed

Dear Mr. Breitenbach,

I am a property owner on Hammer Island, opposite the intake for the Central Valley Project. My family owns Hammer Island, Middleton island, and some additional levee property. I am writing to give some input on the proposed Calfed alternatives.

There are 40 or so residences in the area of the Central Valley Project including Hammer Island, Middleton's Island, Del's Boat harbor, and the misc. waterfront residents surrounding.

We have seen first hand the decline of the Delta and effects of the water diversions from the CVP and the SWP. My family has been on the Delta since the '30's and owners of Hammer Island since 1939. My mother and uncle as well as myself have witnessed the following changes in the Delta:


1. The erosion of the levees and islands due to the increased flow into the CVP.
2. Deepening of portions of channels and infilling of others.
3. Invasion of foreign species. (big problem).
4. Reduction in the amount of flotsam and jetsam since the '60's due to environmental awareness. There are still boaters, however, who carelessly toss garbage overboard.
5. Lowering of water levels due to increased exports and temporary weirs. The most recent weir construction has resulted in a lowering of the low tides by approximately 12" in our area of the delta. There are now islands where there was once water. Portions of the river are no longer navigable. The effect is dramatic! The water users upstream of the weirs are benefiting from this construction, however, the residents below the weirs are getting the short end of the stick. Has anyone been out to this area of the delta to see the effects.

We love the delta, we spend so much time there because we love the water, the wildlife, the peaceful, relaxed qualities the river offers. We are concerned with threats such as the most recent changes in the water level, the looming development of Mountain House, the continuing sedimentation of portions of channels and areas around our islands, the threat of more degradations yet to be imagined.

We are a small group, yet our interest in the preservation of the delta and especially of our little corner is as great if not greater than any other group.

I would appreciate any comments.

Sincerely,

  
Robert M. Lyman  
Hammer Island

I can be contacted at:

Robert M. Lyman  
265 Stevenson Drive  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94596  
(925) 946-9577

Email: [rmlyman@home.com](mailto:rmlyman@home.com)